

# REARSBY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a full Council meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30 pm via Zoom

### Public Forum

A few comments had been passed on via Councillor;-

- A query had been made as to which horse chestnut tree was to be felled on the conker field. Councillor Cooke would put some sort of mark on the tree.
- A query had been made as to the lack of consultation on the installation of the hawthorn hedge at the bottom of the conker field. This had been discussed several times at the PC meetings and was included in the minutes for the public to view.
- There was some concern that a for sale board had been erected at the bottom of Wreake Drive on highways land away from the actual house that was for sale. The Clerk was to speak to the estate agent and ask them to move it closer to the actual property.

### Present

Councillor M Cooke (Chair)  
Councillor A Higgins  
Councillor A Byrne  
Councillor R Metcalfe  
Councillor K Wills

### In Attendance

Sue Norledge – Clerk  
Gary Kirk and John Martin from Your Locale  
Borough/county Councillor James Poland

### 20/72 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Councillor Kagure Brown and the Police representative.

### 20/73 To confirm minutes of meetings held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed as true and accurate record.

### 20/74 Progress on outstanding items

#### a) Progress on items of essential repair and maintenance

- The growth around the notice board on Grange Avenue had been cut back.
- The rotting gate post at the top of the footpath between Brookside and Melton Road had been reported to LCC.
- The work to the surface under the kissing gate at the top of the conker field had been completed.
- LCC had undertaken the work to the overgrown hedges along the Melton Road. This work had been done under the Highways Community Fund. The

work to the hedges around the bridge at the bottom of Station Road, did not yet appear to have been undertaken. The Clerk would chase this up.

- No villager had yet come forward to adopt a planter. The issue would be included again in the Chairman's report.

**b) To report any new items of essential repair and maintenance and agree action to be taken**

- The hedges/trees alongside the field after Grange Avenue were again overgrown and making it difficult to pass by for cars and cyclists. The Clerk would report this to LCC.
- The issue of the safety of the electricity box near to the brook banks was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Western Power to see if they would come and look at it.

**c) Progress on the draft Neighbourhood Plan**

There has been a great deal of hard work over the past month and the plan is almost complete following the consideration of the Regulation 14 comments. A revised copy had been submitted to all Councillors. It was agreed that:-

- Councillor Wills would provide a few more 'cherished' views.
- Councillor Byrnes would look at changing the brook banks from open space to a local green space.
- Gary would welcome a check on the responses to the public's comments at Regulation 14.
- The heritage assets section needs to be concluded. It was agreed to include the alms houses on Brookside.
- It was agreed to submit the draft document to CBC for an initial check. Gary would let the Clerk have a narrative to go with the draft document.
- Gary had submitted another expression of interest to Locality for some funding for the current work being undertaken.
- The Clerk was to ask Andy Corcoran to remove the old NP website.

**d) Progress on work within the conker field including**

- The work on the surface of the top kissing gate has been completed.
- The Clerk had circulated the suggested type of litter bin and it was agreed that these could be purchased. It was agreed that Derek Overfield be requested to fit them.
- The information sign had been ordered.
- The signs re litter etc had been installed.
- The Clerk was to chase up Walkers re the fitting of springs on the gates.
- The hedging plants had been planted.
- It was agreed to ask Mark Whatley to apply for the planning permission for the remaining tree works.
- The Clerk was to write to number 55 Station Road to chase progress on the re siting of the fence.

**e) Mobile vehicle activated sign location and recording update**

Councillor Metcalfe was hoping to replace the battery during the forthcoming weekend.

**f) Progress on Rearsby Village news website**

Councillor Wills reported that the site was attracting many comments and interest from around the village and beyond.

He would arrange to share the site log in arrangements with the rest of the PC.

**g) Progress on request replacement of damaged play surface on the children's play area**

Two quotes had been received, giving slightly different options for the repair. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of relocating the two pieces of equipment to an alternative space on the play area, using grass mats as the safety surface. Concern was expressed that the location of these pieces of equipment, being under the tree, was the source of much of the problems experienced.

**h) Progress on precept request for 21/22**

The Clerk had circulated an estimate of expenditure to the end of the current financial year. It was looking like an overspend of approximately 14K would be made. This would be met from the reserves and was in line with the budgeted expenditure for the conker field. Over the next month Councillors would consider what projects would take place in 21/22 and this would inform the precept request. The request would be approved at the January meeting.

**i) Progress on application to Highways and Parish Communities Fund**

The application had been approved and work had taken place to cut hedges and verges back on the Melton Road. The work to Station Road did not appear to have been undertaken yet and the Clerk would chase this up.

**j) Progress on arrangements for Christmas**

The tree was up, and thanks were given to Councillor Metcalfe for organising this.

**k) Progress on potential sources of grant aid**

It was agreed to leave this until the next meeting.

**l) Progress on consideration of LCC wildflower verge scheme 21/22**

It was agreed to leave this until the following year owing to the other ongoing work on the Neighbourhood Plan and the conker field.

**m) Progress on obtaining quotes for repainting of Brookside railings**

A further quote had been obtained. It was agreed to leave this for another year and monitor the condition of the paint.

**20/75 Police, County Councillor and Borough Councillors reports**

**a) County/Borough Councillor Report**

Councillor Poland reported that:-

- The five year land supply now stands at 4.10 years. This means that CBC can no longer show a five year land supply. This will have implications for the considerations of planning applications as it will make it harder for CBC to refuse applications. CBC is currently in the process of developing a new Core Strategy, which will hopefully be adopted next year.
- Leicestershire has set an ambitious net zero emissions target by 2045, five years sooner than the government target of 2050.
- Lateral flow test kits have arrived in the County. Up to 16,000 are available and will be used to test for asymptomatic cases in high risk areas.

**b) Police Report and crime and safety in Rearsby**

PCSO Lacey reported that she was hoping to hold a speed check on Melton Road at some point before Christmas and would report back the results.

**c) Village Warden Reports**

**Heritage Warden report**

No report was made.

**Tree Warden Report**

No report was made.

### **Flood Warden report**

- The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had been out to inspect the brook. They reported that;  
The growth was cleared late August this year and they do have before and after photos if we want to see them
- There is some blockage of the brook past the farm going towards the railway line and they are going to clear that and also write to the riparian owner of the banks to get them to clear some fallen trees.
- They have requested a hydraulic flood mapping of the brook - hopefully this will be done before the end of the year and they will get a report in April.  
This will show them if the level of the silt in the brook is acceptable for a 100 year flood event. If it is too high they will apply for funding to clear it.
- There is a blockage in the highways pipe that goes into the brook so they have written to LCC Highways to get this cleared.
- The weeds are not really a problem regarding flooding, it is more the level of silt and any blockages.
- The brook is inspected once a month by their contractor to make sure that it is flowing properly.

### **Nature Warden report**

No report was made.

### **e) Monthly risk assessment and village safety report**

Councillor Wills had undertaken a risk assessment.

Areas of note included:-

- Mole hills were again becoming a problem everywhere.
- Two new home-made grind rails had appeared. These would need to be removed as they will not meet current safety standards. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of the purchase of a new grind rail. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of seeking grant aid for this. It was agreed to see if Syston TC could recommend any suppliers.
- One of the goal posts on the VH playing fields was damaged. The Clerk was to see if Peter French had any spare parts for this.

### **f) Report back from Village Hall Committee meeting including risk assessment**

There had been no meeting.

### **g) Finance (including cheques, balances and budgets)**

The balance of the accounts on 30.11.20 is £29,486.65

S Norledge - wages and expenses - £279.75

Burnt Oak – mowing, £744.00

Your Locale – NP, £2,760.00

Welford Christmas tree farm – xmas tree, £255.00

Rita Meade – donation xmas, £100.00

Hickman signs – conker field, £438.00

Community Heartbeat – electrodes, £87.60

The bank reconciliation to 30.11.20 was noted.

### **h) Issues arising from LRALC reports**

There was nothing to report.

### **20/76 New Business**

There was nothing to report.

**20/77 Planning**

P/20/1721/2 24 Church Leys Avenue, erection of single storey extension  
Councillor Wills expressed a declaration of interest in this item and did not take part in the discussions.

It was agreed to comment, expressing concern that the extension appeared to go beyond the building line. There was also concern that the angle of the proposed dropped kerb, forced the driver to be going against the flow of the traffic.

**20/78 Correspondence received that is not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

Councillor Cooke reported that a house on Stations Road appeared to be cultivating the grass verge. This had been reported to LCC Highways.

There had been some correspondence from the flood warden over the issue of sandbags at the school. The Clerk had spoken to CBC and it is clear that there is no statutory responsibility for any authority to supply sandbags. It is up to the individual household who is aware of a flooding risk to purchase them. However, there is limited provision for the supply of sandbags to vulnerable residents who would be unable to get out and purchase their own.

**20/79 Chairman’s report, including article for submission to Rearsby Scene**

Councillor Cooke was to produce some articles around individual issues such as the village website, village planters and benches and trees in the village. These would be put on the village website and on the notice board.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January via zoom

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed..... (Chairman, Rearsby Parish Council)

Dated.....